



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

MINUTES

August 23, 2005

2:00 PM

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Headquarters
645 New London Ave. – Cranston, RI

Agenda

I. Call to Order/Attendance

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. In attendance were:

John Soscia, <i>RIEMA</i>	Armand Randolph, <i>RIEMA</i>
John L. Enright, <i>RI Nat Guard</i>	Robert Warren, <i>Cranston EMA</i>
Diana L. Arcand, <i>RIEMA</i>	John J. Enright, <i>US Attorney's Office (ATAC)</i>
Robert Thorne, <i>TSA</i>	John Gardner, <i>TSA</i>
Joseph S. Salter, <i>TSA</i>	Cathy Duquette, <i>HARI</i>
Janice McClanaghan, <i>RI State Energy Office</i>	Leo Kennedy, <i>Cranston Fire Dept.</i>
Jim Gumbley, <i>Cranston Fire Dept.</i>	Irving J. Owens, <i>State Fire Marshal</i>
Lenette Boissell, <i>American Petroleum Inst.</i>	John Felmy, <i>American Petroleum Inst.</i>
Walter Combs, <i>HEALTH</i>	John Fulton, <i>HEALTH</i>
Douglas Brown, <i>RIPTA</i>	S. Beth (Candie) Cook, <i>HEALTH</i>
Leo Messier, <i>Providence EMA</i>	Tom McMillan, <i>Exeter EMA</i>

II. Approval of Minutes from July 19, 2005

The chairman requested the approval of the previous meeting minutes from July 19, 2005 pending any corrections. The minutes were approved.

III. Introduction

- A. Comments from the Chairman
Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty

Chairman Fogarty began the meeting by introducing Brig. Gen. John Enright, appointed by the Governor as acting Adjutant General of the RI National Guard. Chairman Fogarty introduced and welcomed Chief Robert Warren as the incoming RIEMA director, beginning in September. He also recognized the work of Diana Arcand as the interim RIEMA director.

Lt. Governor Fogarty noted the price increase of gasoline from last year. He also announced that more than half the homes in RI heat with oil and that the increase of home heating oil has gone from \$1.66/gallon last year to \$2.43/gallon yesterday. That is almost a 50% increase. Many of the companies, who usually guarantee prices, are not doing that. As the prices go up, that has serious consequences in terms of economic growth and development as well as in the health and safety of the people in our state. Chairman Fogarty introduced Dr. John Felmy, of the American Petroleum Institute. The Lt. Governor met Dr. Felmy last month at a national meeting of Lt. Governors, where the doctor hosted a session on energy.

IV. Heating Oil / Energy – John C. Felmy, Ph.D., American Petroleum Institute

(power point presentation available in the office of Lt. Governor)

Dr. Felmy thanked the Lt. Governor for his introduction. He announced that the Department of Energy is forecasting record bills for consumers this coming winter, compared to last years record bills. It is important to keep an eye on demand in the United States and China. We have high crude oil and natural gas prices already. And there are other unpredictable factors that affect pricing, such as hurricanes, the Avian Flu, flooding, etc.,

Crude oil leads gasoline and heating oil. Everything is tracking crude oil. The process, after crude oil, is to refine, market and distribute. The main thing that can help is filling up tanks early. Right now, consumers are filling up slower than they have in the past. If for any reason, people rush the system, there could be a serious problem. People must fill their tanks now, and make sure their home is properly insulated.

Chairman Fogarty asked that if heating oil was \$1.84/gallon last year and \$2.43/gallon this year, whether there was potential for the price to go down from \$2.43 in the winter. Janice McClanaghan answered that typically, the summer is the lowest and that prices usually go higher. It is important to fill your tanks now. New England can be different from the national average. Dr. Felmy followed by answering that prices increase, on average, by 11¢. The only time they decreased was after 9/11. Janice added that there are many factors that affect the pricing such as weather and Chinese demand and that it is a very fluid market.

Chairman Fogarty asked about the probability to maintain running refineries “full out”, particularly in the winter months. Dr. Felmy noted two major upgrades, the reduction of sulfur from gas, and ultra-low sulfur diesel. These are major upgrades that need to be implemented while running refineries at high levels. Chairman Fogarty asked when we can expect to have a storage problem. The Dr. Felmy responded that it is too hard to predict when that will happen.

Chairman Fogarty brought up the strategic petroleum reserve, mentioned that oil is a lifeline for our part of the country and asked what the timeline is for release of that reserve. Dr. Felmy explained that the reserve is a crude oil reserve and is set up for quick release but that it must be used in an emergency. There is also a home heat oil reserve, 2million barrels located in New Jersey, important for a situation like in 2000 if rivers freeze.

Chairman Fogarty asked to clarify the bottom line that we are looking at record high costs for heating homes this winter. Dr. Felmy replied that he has not seen any forecast saying any different and that LIHEAP funds will be extremely important this year. Chairman Fogarty stated it is vitally important that Rhode Islanders be prepared.

Janice McClanaghan state that as LIHEAP funds are currently slated, there is approximately \$1.8billion - \$3billion. This would mean approximately \$12million for RI, down from around \$15million last year.

Chairman Fogarty asked for any silver lining in the situation. Dr. Felmy said the good news is in changes of efficiency. Also, we could face warmer weather than expected. What is needed is additional refining capacity in order to reduce costs. Bases and retired bases are potential sites for

such activity. Lenette Boissell added the possibility of one terminal being added in our area and another potential terminal in Providence but that eminent domain could present a problem.

Janice McClanaghan was asked to give a local RI update. She stated that heating oil is 32% higher than last year, diesel is 28% higher. RISEO is planning to mail LIHEAP applications in September and will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis, with no guarantee. Last year the program was in effect until April 1, due to three emergency releases. Lenette Boissell noted donations were made to the RISEO last year.

Chairman Fogarty thanked Dr. Felmy, Ms. McClanaghan and Ms. Boissell for their work. The chairman introduced Dr. John Fulton to give an update on Avian Flu.

V. Avian Flu Update – John Fulton, Ph.D., *Department of Health*

Dr. Fulton announced that should there be an outbreak of this flu, we will rely heavily on Tamiflu. The US has about 2-3million doses on order, which would mean 10,000 doses or less for Rhode Island. The shelf life of Tamiflu is very important. Dr. Gifford has worked on a model of supply for 1 year upfront, stockpiled at the central pharmacy (5,000-6,000). The central pharmacy would become the replenisher of supplies for the antiviral.

Chairman Fogarty asked about the existing supply survey. Dr. Fulton responded that we currently have 500-1,000 doses on hand, with a very short shelf life. The chairman asked about the new vaccine in the news. Dr. Fulton responded that it is effective, but that a substantial amount of it is needed per dose in order for it to be effective. This means more of it must be produced, and it can only be done in chicken eggs, which makes it hard to do.

VI. New Business

It was suggested that legislation is needed to curb energy shutoffs, as a record number of shutoffs are expected.

Joe Salter of TSA reported that the airport is experiencing a high volume of passengers, more so than previously. This is good news, but that TSA is limited to screeners and a number of positions will be headed to larger airports due to demand.

Diana Arcand welcomed Chief Warren on board as the new director of RIEMA.

Armand Randolph announced that tomorrow there would be a conference call regarding reporting deadlines for FY2003 and 04. Grantees are encouraged to take part.

Walter Combs reported on CDC and Providence's involvement in a program called City Readiness.

VII. Adjournment

The Lt. Governor motioned to adjourn and the motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.